

PRESTON UNION.

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
1894.

PRESTON:

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE  
*Preston Rural District Council.*

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GENTLEMEN,

Although I have the honour to address you by your new designation, yet this, my Annual Statement, strictly refers to the period immediately preceding the Election of this, our new Rural District Council. I may say, in a few preliminary words, that this Report I now submit is by far the most satisfactory I have ever had the pleasure of placing before you. In the first place the Death-rate is extremely low. I question if a minimum record has not been reached; at least, I have no statistics at my disposal to contradict this assertion. Again increased Sanitary activity has been a predominating feature in the transactions of this Council. A Water Supply for the district south of the Ribble; three Sewerage Schemes, one for Ribchester, another at Farington, and the other for Grimsargh; the decision to join the Urban District Councils of Fulwood and Longridge in the construction of an Infectious Hospital, and the proposal to adopt Bye Laws are all necessary and desirable additions towards placing the area under the supervision of this Body in a sanitary condition, and the reducing to the smallest degree the ravages of Infectious Diseases.

Without further comment, I will now proceed to treat the subject matter of this, my Report.

**Some remarks respecting Epidemic Invasions in 1894.**

Throughout the year there was a marked immunity from severe Epidemics of Infectious Diseases. With the exception of two outbursts of Measles and Whooping Cough, I may state that there was exhibited on the part of Zymotic Ailments no tendency towards extensive diffusion. By the adoption in October, 1893, of The Infectious Diseases Notification Act, I received twenty-six notices of outbreaks, of disorders scheduled to be notified to the Medical Officer of

Health. I have tabulated each case as the information came to hand, and here insert it:—

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	No. of Houses Infected	No. of Cases under Notice
1	Jan. ...	Penwortham ...	Typhoid Fever	1	1
2	„ ...	Penwortham ...	Erysipelas ...	1	1
3	„ ...	Goosnargh ...	Typhoid Fever	1	1
4	March	Ribchester ...	Typhoid Fever	1	1
5	„ ...	Goosnargh ...	Scarlet Fever ...	1	5
6	„ ...	Woodplumpton.	Erysipelas ...	1	1
7	„ ...	Whittingham ...	Scarlet Fever ...	1	1
8	„ ...	Inglewhite ...	Typhoid Fever	1	1
9	June ...	Farington ...	Scarlet Fever ...	1	1
10	„ ...	Ribbleton ...	Small Pox ...	1	3
11	May ...	Farington ...	Scarlet Fever ...	1	1
12	„ ...	Longton ...	Scarlet Fever ...	1	1
13	„ ...	Cuerdale ...	Scarlet Fever ...	1	1
14	July ...	Whittingham ...	Typhoid Fever	1	1
15	Aug. ...	Farington ...	Typhoid Fever	1	1
16	„ ...	Farington ...	Typhoid Fever	1	2
17	Sept. ...	Longton ...	Scarlet Fever ...	1	1
18	Nov. ...	Longton ...	Typhoid Fever	1	1
19	„ ...	Hutton ...	Diphtheria ...	1	1
20	Dec. ...	Newsham ...	Scarlet Fever ...	1	1
21	„ ...	Hutton ...	Scarlet Fever ...	1	1
22	„ ...	Hutton ...	Scarlet Fever ...	2	2
23	„ ...	Howick ...	Scarlet Fever ...	2	3
24	„ ...	Penwortham ...	Scarlet Fever ...	1	2
				26	35

In addition to the foregoing table, I have to record a considerable and wide-spread irruption of Measles in the townships south of the Ribble. The disease appears to have made itself most severely felt in Farington and Penwortham during the months of September and October. In or about the same period Whooping Cough also prevailed in these localities, but I have no means at my disposal of estimating accurately the number of those who suffered from these affections, as neither are included in the diseases to be notified to me under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act. One point beyond dispute is that School Attendance must be saddled with the responsibility of disseminating these and allied maladies in the most sudden and broadcast manner—what other results could be expected from rooms where large numbers of children are



placed close together, re-breathing the expired breath of his other neighbour, and where the ventilation is oft times faulty? "It only needs the spark to set the fire burning briskly."

### Small Pox.

Three cases of Small Pox came under notice in June at Ribbleton. The patients were at once isolated, and no further extension occurred. I am of opinion the infection was brought from Preston to Ribbleton. It also came to my knowledge that a man who had worked in the smithy at Broughton, and slept in an outhouse on the 8th of June, was taken into the Preston Hospital suffering from Small Pox on the 9th of June. Inquiries were made, and all precautions used to stay the further spreading of the disease, and with the best results, as no other case broke out. We still wait the final and complete report of the Royal Commission on Vaccination. How long this statement is to be withheld from Parliament I know not, but I am thoroughly conversant with the fact that the absence of the finding of this Commission is going enormous lengths to embolden the Anti-Vaccinator and bring discredit on Vaccination. After a sitting of five years, ordinary expectations might reasonably seek to be gratified by having some definite and authoritative utterance on this important and vital subject. I closed Lea Endowed School on the 13th of October for one month owing to numerous cases of Whooping Cough and Mumps. I adopted a like course with Howick School in December, as there existed some cases of Scarlet Fever, and nearly all the children were suffering from a well marked and severe form of Influenza. I inspected all the children in the School, and I also visited some fifteen families residing in different parts of the townships of Hutton and Howick. This last-mentioned malady was much in evidence in January and February, and two deaths resulted therefrom. I trust the last has been seen of Epidemic Influenza, as we have suffered much for the past three years from this insidious and fatal complaint. The working of the Infectious Diseases Act has been satisfactory to me as Medical Officer of Health. It is of marked service in coping with Epidemic Irruptions. The notices are generally sent with much promptness by the Medical Men in attendance, but in a few instances I have had to complain of much tardiness. Again, there is no necessity for notification when the person has succumbed. This latter information I get from the Registrars of Births and Deaths immediately the Death Certificate is brought to them. I am also afraid the public at large have failed to grasp the fact that the Act forces the householder to notify the Medical Officer of Health of the

existence of Epidemic Disease when there is not a Medical man in charge.

### **Typhoid Fever.**

In the after-named townships Typhoid Fever made its appearance :—Penwortham, one case ; Goosnargh, two cases ; Whittingham, one case ; Farington, two outbreaks and three cases ; Longton, one case ; and Ribchester, one case. With the exception of Farington, where the outbursts were due to polluted water, all the cases were of a truly sporadic nature.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

Twenty-six cases of Scarlet Fever were under observation, fourteen families being invaded and localized in the after-named townships, viz., Penwortham, Hutton, Howick, Newsham, Longton, Cuerdale, Farington, Whittingham, and Goosnargh.

### **Erysipelas and Diphtheria.**

Erysipelas being a scheduled disease under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, I have had my attention called to two cases. Diphtheria was scarcely with us, only one instance being notified to me.

### **Cholera.**

The alarming increase of the number of Cholera cases at St. Petersburg and other parts of the Continent during the months of July and August drew our attention to the fact that the season had approached when Cholera had in this country frequently made its appearance. So far as the safety of the area presided over by this Council was concerned, let me say that I, together with your Inspector of Nuisances, made visitations to localities where the sanitary surroundings were not of the best, notices to abate were served, and other necessary steps acted on. Several farms and isolated houses were supplied with water. On the 28th August I asked that "Cholera Bills," containing useful information and instructions to guard against the disorder, should be distributed throughout the whole district. This suggestion of mine was acted upon early in September. A circular was received from the Local Government Board on the 17th July asking that Diarrhoea should be a disease to be notified during the period that Cholera might prevail in England. This course was not adopted.

### **Infectious Hospital.**

For some time past it has been felt that there was great

need of an "Infectious Hospital," and as this Authority is at present placed not a single bed is available in the case of an extensive outburst of Zymotic Disease. The subject had from time to time throughout the year received considerable consideration. On the 17th July a letter came to hand from the Fulwood Urban Sanitary Authority asking this Authority to combine with them and also the Longridge Local Board in forming a "Joint Hospital District" for the erection and equipment on a convenient site of a suitable "Infectious Hospital," to be devoted to the use of the three contracting Authorities. It was resolved that a Committee be appointed to meet the Fulwood and Longridge Authorities respecting the matter. At first it was thought that so far as this District was concerned it would only be necessary to embrace in the Hospital scheme the portion of the Union north of the Ribble. This view I strongly opposed. On the 7th August, at a special meeting, it was decided to include *the whole Rural District*. This was, in my opinion, the only feasible course to adopt. To give Infectious Hospital accommodation to one half the Union and withhold it from the other half would be unfair and narrow-minded treatment to the area so excluded. A joint meeting of representatives was held on the 9th October, at Lancaster Road Board Room. It was then decided that each of the interested Boards, at their next meeting, should pass a resolution in favour of the "joint scheme." This being done, I was instructed to obtain particulars from other Infectious Hospitals in the County as to cost of land, building, maintenance, &c. These directions I have attended to, and I am now in a position to lay some information before the "Joint Committee" at their next meeting. At this juncture it was thought advisable, seeing that the new Local Government Act would come into force on the 31st December, 1894, and also that there might be considerable changes in the membership of the several Boards, to postpone the consideration until the new Councils were elected. I trust that this most important matter may soon again occupy attention, and I would further suggest that the construction of a Small Pox Hospital be added to the present scheme. This building, by special powers authorising the formation of "A Small Pox Area," might be available, to say, the districts of four or five "Councils," the Hospital to be built where the convenience of the contracting Authorities would best be served. Let me once more say that I am, as a Medical Officer of Health, strongly in favour of both an "Infectious Hospital," and also a separate Hospital for the treatment of Small Pox.



## Sanitary Condition of the District during 1894.

Although none of the Sewerage or Water Supply schemes (with the exception of that giving water to Halfpenny Lane, Whittingham) have as yet been entered on, the delay cannot be laid to the charge of this Council. Many necessary formalities have had to be satisfied, and where two or three Corporate Bodies have to come to terms and agree one with the other, and the Local Government Board's requirements complied with, progress is often painfully slow, even when stimulated and pressed on by the ever watchful County Council.

### Sewerage Scheme for Grimsargh.

The method of treating the Sewage from Grimsargh Village has for some time past given considerable trouble. During the latter portion of the year it was deemed advisable to adopt "Candy's Process," and to put down one of these tanks. This means of dealing with the small bulk of sewage will to my mind prove satisfactory, and with a little regular supervision there should be no difficulty in keeping everything in perfect order. The completion of this work will be a marked benefit to the neighbourhood, and a serious nuisance will have been removed.

### Sewage Scheme for the Village of Ribchester.

Your Engineer, Mr. J. J. Myres, laid before you Plans, &c., showing how he proposed to sewer and collect the sewage of Ribchester. These Drawings and Reports by Mr. Myres have had much attention throughout the year 1894, and this Council was most anxious to proceed, but owing to organisation and other details, coupled with lengthy correspondence with the Local Government Board, which culminated by Mr. Clarke reading, on the 6th December, a letter from this Body in answer to an application to them to borrow £2,000 for Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works at Ribchester, stating that the Board had directed a public inquiry on this subject by one of their Inspectors, the matter remained in abeyance. The inquiry was to take place as soon as possible, and due notice would be given of it. The date was fixed for the 4th January, 1895, and Colonel Hasteed attended at the Schools, Ribchester. This carries me on to a period not embraced in this Report, therefore I cannot deal with it; but I may say that I am positive, after Colonel Hasteed had inspected Ribchester and heard the evidence, and contrasted all he saw and heard with the information tendered by those in opposition, he



would in all probability form the conclusion that the sewerage of Ribchester was a matter requiring immediate attention. I was instructed to be present and attended, and was examined by Colonel Hasteed. I tried to bring into prominence the urgency of the proposed Sewerage Works, and I further stated that I had on frequent occasions reported on the insanitary condition of Ribchester. Detailed Plans were submitted to the Inspector. It has been definitely settled to adopt "Candy's Process" in the treatment of the Sewage. Ample land is also provided for the downward filtration of the effluent.

### **Sewerage Scheme for Tardy Gate and Farington.**

As I stated in my Annual Report for 1893, the Walton-le-Dale District Council were disposed to receive the sewage from some 100 houses at Tardy Gate and Farington into their Main Sewer, when the latter was constructed. Several meetings were held during the past year by the Committees of both Authorities, and with the most satisfactory results. The Walton Council agreed to the old proposal to take and treat the sewage from the 100 houses, and they also consented to allow for extension by making Sewer provision for 200 more houses. These arrangements were ratified on the 11th September.

### **Water Supply to Green Nook and Halfpenny Lane, Whittingham.**

I am very pleased to be in a position to state that the difficulties surrounding the water supply to Green Nook and Halfpenny Lane, Whittingham, have been surmounted. The houses in Halfpenny Lane have had water laid on, and it is also within reach of those in Green Nook who may require it. Thus is obliterated the cause of numerous and frequent complaints, well founded, on the inconvenience and dangers arising from the want of good water supply—in this instance rendered aggravating to a degree seeing that the water mains of a large Borough were within a few yards of most of the houses requiring a water supply.

### **Water Supply to Longton and the Townships South of the Ribble.**

It is now more than a year since Major-General Crozier, R.E., held an inquiry on the application of this Authority to the Local Government Board to borrow £11,500 for the purpose of supplying with water the following townships, viz., Penwortham, Hutton, Howick, Longton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole, and Farington; the Water to be obtained from

the Preston Corporation, and about 600 houses to be served. On the 27th February Mr. Clarke reported that he and Mr. Berry had formed a deputation to the Local Government Board, where they met representatives from the Preston Corporation, who went jointly with them, to interview one of the Assistant Secretaries to the Board on this subject. They pointed out the extreme necessity and urgency of their case, that the Preston Corporation were quite willing to entertain an agreement to supply the necessitous districts with water for a period of 21 years, provided the Local Government Board gave their sanction to borrow the money needful to increase their (the Preston Corporation) storage accommodation, but failing this, they (the Preston Corporation) could not give the guarantee, and the districts languishing and in urgent want of a water supply must remain in *statu quo*. The deputation further pointed out that the Preston Corporation water supply was the only one available for the district without incurring an expenditure so great as to be quite prohibitive, and should they experience another dry summer anything like the last, and Epidemic Disease broke out in consequence of an impure and defective water supply, this Authority could not be expected to assume any responsibility in the matter. So time went on until the 23rd October, when Mr. Clarke, Messrs. Martin and Dogson, and myself were again requested to visit the Local Government Board. This we did, advancing arguments in favour of the extension of the period of supply by the Preston Corporation from 21 to 30 years, the construction of a Storage Reservoir at Tardy Gate, and the continuation of the scheme into the Ormskirk Rural Sanitary District. The agreement between this Authority and the Preston Corporation has been settled, and there now only remains the character of the joints to be adopted on the pipeline to be decided. Should matters be pushed on energetically, the work of laying the pipes should soon be entered on. This water supply is of the utmost importance. The townships which are to be served, so far as potable water is concerned, are in a very bad condition; the inhabitants in dry weather, when their stock of rain water gives out, are forced to requisition and drink filthy water drawn from polluted streams, field pits, and shallow wells. Again I hold that the general distribution of water will add to the development of the various townships, and particularly will it benefit such pleasantly situated places as Longton.

### Supply of Water from Fulwood District Council.

Year by year there is an increase in the number of houses supplied with water by the Fulwood District Council. The

table here given indicates the townships and the number of houses obtaining a supply from the above source in the years 1892, 1893, 1894 :—

Townships.	Number of Houses Supplied.		
	1892	1893	1894
Grimsargh .....	36	38	41
Whittingham .....	36	36	36
Broughton .....	77	82	84
Haighton .....	17	17	17
Goosnargh .....	19	19	21
Ingol .....	4	4	4
Totals .....	189	196	203

### Nuisances.

Your Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Thomas Ashcroft, reports to me that he has had under notice the Nuisances set forth in the table here introduced :—

Description of Nuisance.	No. dealt with.
Defective Spouts ... ..	9
Defective Drains ... ..	51
Foul Ditches ... ..	13
General Nuisances ... ..	15
Defective Cesspools, Tanks, and Privies ...	25
Defective Roofs ... ..	13
Dilapidated Houses ... ..	9
Foul Water Supply ... ..	16
Houses Disinfected ... ..	20
Notices served to abate Nuisances ... ..	101
Totals ... ..	272

As I conjectured in my last Report that good would come of the action of bringing before the Magistrates those who refused to abate nuisances after the usual notice, no prosecutions were necessary in 1894. At the same time, I strongly advocate the principle that obstinate people who defy the law and endanger the lives of other individuals by keeping extant a



dangerous nuisance require no sympathy, but should be promptly and effectually dealt with; and I am also disposed to the view that it should not be a matter of paying the costs of such action, but a penalty in accordance with the gravity of the offence should be asked for and imposed.

### Action taken with respect to the Adoption of Bye-Laws.

Early in the year a Committee was appointed to go into the question of Bye-Laws. After several meetings were held, at which the perusal and close examination of model Bye-Laws, together with copies of such Laws in force in other districts, which occupied considerable time, a Code of Laws was drawn up as suitable and applicable to the requirements of this Rural District, and submitted to a general meeting, which approved the work of the Committee, and these Bye-Laws were forwarded to the Local Government Board. This body has, I believe, returned these Bye-Laws, having made some alterations. These changes should have your early attention, and the regulations put in force as early as possible. I have more than once tried to impress on you, Gentlemen, the necessity there is for a system of Scavenging in several of our villages and hamlets. The abolition of Middern Privies is another matter requiring careful attention. These abominable structures are nothing more or less than polluters of air and soil. They are, beyond dispute, centres of infection, and it is quite impossible to scavenge or disinfect them properly. I strongly advocate the "Pail System" in their place. With the aid of our Bye-Laws the change can be introduced, and by regular scavenging the sanitary condition of village or hamlet will be vastly improved. I ask for your earnest consideration to be given to these points at your earliest convenience.

### Enquiries made by the Medical Officer of Health respecting conditions Injurious to Health existing in this district.

I have always striven to make myself conversant with the conditions injurious to health existing in the area under my charge as Medical Officer of Health, and to endeavour to rectify these as I became aware of them. During the year to which this Report refers I have had to treat many important matters, besides visiting and reporting on nuisances. I was obliged to ask you to take steps to close several houses as unfit for habitation. Some Water Supplies have been condemned by me, and pure water placed at the disposal of the inhabitants. The objectionable state of the Preston Sewage

Farm at Freckleton gave rise to an objectionable nuisance in this Union. The horrible stench evolved from quantities of putrescent sewage on this Farm being carried by south-west winds over the southern portion of this district originating and sustaining a nuisance, in my opinion, of no small magnitude. I drew your attention to this subject in a Report dated 23rd October. I further informed you that I had attended a few days prior to that date an influential gathering at the County Offices of gentlemen from the townships of Kirkham, Freckleton, Newton-with-Scales, Clifton, Lea, Hutton, and Penwortham. This meeting condemned, in the strongest terms, the existing state of things at the Preston Sewage Farm. A representation was made from this Authority to the Preston Corporation, through Mr. Clarke, who attended, accompanied by a deputation of Land Owners and Occupiers residing in the neighbourhood of the Freckleton Sewage Farm, together with representatives from the Fylde Rural Sanitary Authority, who waited on the Sewage Committee of the Preston Corporation. As a result of the meeting the Committee of the Corporation proposed to abate the nuisance by the 16th January, 1895.

### **Factory Act, 1891.**

I have observed the responsibility resting on me under the provisions of The Factory and Workshops Act, 1891. Most Mills are well provided with means of escape in case of fire. Some have no fire ladders fixed to the outside walls. In other respects the buildings seem to be in conformity with the enactment.

### **Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milk Shops Order.**

As this Authority has been much occupied by schemes for Sewering and Water Supply, the regulation proposed to be framed under "The Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milk Shops Order" have not been formulated, nor have there been any further steps taken to ensure the observance of the Order, which is of much moment, by bearing important relations to the propagation and distribution of some forms of Epidemic Diseases.

### **Canal Boats Act.**

The Canal Boats Act has had the attention of your Nuisance Inspector, Mr. T. Ashcroft, who holds the appointment of Inspector under this Statute. He informs me that he has no cause of complaint against the sanitary state of the boats examined by him, and that no cases of Infectious Disease existed on any of these boats whilst passing through this Union.

## Some Information relative to Deaths and Births taking place during 1894.

In introducing the subject of demises registered in this Council's district for the year 1894, I may say that the minimum death-rate has been reached, at least, so far as statistics at my disposal go to prove. 215 deaths are recorded; of these 108 are males, and 107 females. 42 deaths took place under 1 year of age: 16 over 1 year and under 5 years of age, or 58 fatalities under 5 years; 6 demises were recorded between the ages of 5 and 15; 9 between 15 and 25; 76 between 25 and 65 and upwards. These figures are again given in a table inserted after this statement, contrasting the years 1890-1894 inclusive. The death-rate per 1,000 of the population will thus stand at 14·14 for the year 1894—a diminution of 3·42 on the preceding year. The 42 fatalities under 1 year gives an infantile death-roll of 110·23 calculated per 1,000 registered births, a saving of child-life represented by 24·63 per 1,000 births on the year 1893. It is anticipated that there will be a marked decrease in the death-rate in England and Wales for the year 1894. The figures recorded for this Rural District certainly denote a result in accordance with that prognosticated. To put the matter plainly let me say that the number of lives saved in this District by the falling off in the death-rate from 17·56 to 14·14 is 52.

### Deaths due to Zymotic Ailments.

The absence of severe incursions of Zymotic ailments has lowered the fatalities under this heading. Children who contract infectious disorders are in my opinion subjected to better treatment of nursing. Certainly the disposition on the part of parents to isolate their infected ones is most marked. The care also exercised in preventing children from infected homes attending School has a decided influence for good in limiting the spread of Epidemic diseases. The subjoined Tabular Statement indicates the age range of deaths with the Mortality rate per 1,000 of the population, and the mean rate for the past five years :—

YEARS.	Under 1 year	1 Year and under 5 years.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	TOTALS.	Death rate per 1000 of the Populat'n	Mean death rate for past 5 years.
1890	50	18	10	9	67	89	243	16·88	21·12 17·11
1891	61	19	7	21	74	100	282	18·55	
1892	59	30	10	17	71	94	281	18·47	
1893	53	26	11	12	87	78	267	17·56	
1894	42	16	6	9	76	66	215	14·14	



A Quarterly Return of Deaths will be found in the undermentioned Table. The following results are attached to 1894. In the first quarter of the year there occurred 67 deaths, in the second quarter 47, in the third quarter 44, and in the fourth quarter 75.

Years.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Totals.
1886	86	53	59	69	267
1887	66	64	66	63	259
1888	80	74	65	58	277
1889	70	65	59	55	249
1890	65	63	54	61	243
1891	65	86	71	60	282
1892	94	60	61	66	281
1893	71	61	70	65	267
1894	67	47	44	57	215

Going a little further than the information contained on Table A, where the age limit is 65 years and upwards, I carry the classification on and tabulate the demises between 65 and 70 years, 70 and 80 years, 80 and 90 years, and 90 years and upwards. This Table embraces the last 12 years.

Years.	Deaths over 65 and under 70 years.	Deaths over 70 and under 80 years.	Deaths over 80 and under 90 years.	Deaths over 90 years.	Totals.
1883	30	43	19	2	94
1884	36	26	17	1	80
1885	30	39	16	2	87
1886	32	42	20	1	95
1887	24	47	23	2	96
1888	39	41	18	7	105
1889	33	43	11	1	88
1890	29	42	17	1	89
1891	34	32	32	2	100
1892	36	46	15	4	101
1893	27	36	13	2	78
1894	13	32	18	3	66

Twelve deaths are attributable to Infectious Diseases, and this number gives a Zymotic death rate of only  $\cdot 78$  per 1,000

of the population. This rate is most favourable, and few Districts in the County will be able to point to a much lower standard. I have not the slightest doubt that when an Infectious Hospital is at our disposal, great assistance will be gained by its use in keeping the Zymotic death roll within reasonable bounds, as the Table I here give indicates two deaths due to Measles, two to Scarlet Fever, one to Diphtheria, one to Dysentery, and four to Whooping Cough.

Years.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Doubtful Fever.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Whooping Cough.	Totals.	Death rate per 1,000 of the Population.	Mean rate for past 5 years.
1890	2	...	3	1	...	4	3	13	·90	1·17
1891	7	3	1	2	...	6	1	20	1·38	
1892	...	5	1	...	2	7	3	18	1·19	
1893	2	2	1	2	...	13	5	25	1·64	
1894	2	2	1	2	...	1	4	12	·78	

DISEASE.	No. of Deaths	DISEASE.	No. of Deaths
Influenza .....	2	Tubercular Meningitis .....	2
Child Birth .....	3	Cancer of Orbit .....	1
Malignant Disease of Liver .....	1	Fybroid Liver....	1
Apoplexy .....	6	Diabetes Melitus ...	1
Cancer of Rectum ...	1	Tuberculosis .....	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	3	Cancer of Uterus ...	1
Senile Decay .....	22	Tetanus .....	1
Bursting of a Varicose Vein .....	1	Hypertropy of Prostate .....	1
Tracheitis .....	1	Premature Birth.....	2
Chronic Nephritis ...	1	Cancer of Stomach...	3
Teething .....	2	Tubercular Laryngitis	1
Debility after Birth	2	Delirium Tremens ...	1
Carcinoma of Uterine	1	Brights Disease .....	4
Suicide by Hanging	1	Cardiac Dropsy .....	1
Gastritis .....	3	Child Birth and Inflammation ...	1
Accidentally Drowned	1	Abdominal Tumour	1
Abscess of Stomach	1	General Anæmia.....	1
Apthæ .....	1	Congenital Debility	1
Chronic Rheumatism	3	Abscess of Leg .....	1
Carcinoma of Liver	1	Cardiac Asthenia ...	2
Convulsions .....	8	Mal-development ...	1
Found Drowned .....	3	Peritonitis .....	1
Carcinoma of Œsophagus .....	1	Alcoholism .....	1
Asthenia .....	2	Marasmus .....	2
Meningitis .....	5	Intestinal Obstruction	1
Cerebral Tumour ...	1	Postpartum Hæmorrhage.....	1
Gastric Cattarrh.....	1	General Emaciation	3
Cancer of Pylorus ...	1	Tubercular disease of Brain .....	1
Puerperal Convulsions	1	Pernicious Anæmia...	1
Parotitis .....	1	Intussusception .....	1
Cerebral Congestion	1	Accidentally by Choking .....	1
Brain Softening .....	1		
Disease of Brain and Epilepsy .....	1		
Malignant Disease of Bladder .....	1		
Chronic Debility.....	2	TOTAL.....	129



The foregoing table gives some idea as to the cause of death in the instances classified on "Form A" as due to "All other Diseases." I have adhered to the wording of the Medical Certificate in each case as nearly as possible.

With a view to comparing the position of this Rural District with like areas in England and Wales and also in the County of Lancaster, with respect to Deaths, Births, Infantile, and Zymotic Death Rates, I have constructed the following table on the principal used by the Medical Officer for the County, Dr. Sergeant:—

	Birth rate per 1,000 of the Popu- lation.	Rural Death rate per 1,000 of the Population.	Rural Zymotic Death rate per 1,000 of the Population.	Rate of Infantile Mortality as per deaths under one year to 1,000 registered births
England and Wales	30·8	17·3	2·47	159)
Rural Districts of the County. }	28·94	17·49	2·02	145)
Preston Rural }	25·83	14·14	·75	110)
District Council. }				1894 1893

I here beg to submit a few remarks as to the number and distinction of Zymotic deaths and those due to chest lesions.

### Diphtheria.

To Diphtheria is attributed one death, occurring at Woodplumpton.

### Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever proved fatal in two instances, credited against the townships of Woodplumpton and Hutton.

### Typhoid Fever.

Against Typhoid Fever are recorded two fatalities, one at Ribchester and the other at Penwortham.

### Measles.

Two children succumbed to Measles, one death being registered at Farington and the other at Penwortham.

### Whooping Cough.

This malady was unusually fatal, considering the number of cases known to me. Against this cause are placed four demises—two in Farington and two in Penwortham.

### Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.

Lesions of the respiratory organs increased the death aggregate by 33—a diminution of 13 in the year 1893. Table E, appended to this Report, will point out the months in which these deaths took place, and on “Form A” will be found the townships against which they are recorded.

### Phthisis.

Phthisis gave rise to two deaths, comparing favourably with the preceding year, when 14 were registered.

### Illegitimate Births and Deaths.

I have to notify 13 Illegitimate Births during the year, and only 1 Illegitimate Death for the same period. For 1893 the figures stood thus:—Births, 7; Deaths, 3.

### Births.

381 Births are recorded for the year 1894. Of these 192 were males and 189 were females. These figures give a birth-rate per 1,000 of the population of 25.06, and is the lowest rate reached for the past 14 or 15 years, the corresponding rate for last year being 25.85 per 1,000 of the population. A tabular form here introduced gives a quarterly return of Births since 1889, and including 1894. It will be gathered from these figures that there has been a steady decline in Births since 1889.

Years.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Totals.
1889	95	108	108	110	421
1890	123	102	99	103	427
1891	104	103	111	108	426
1892	102	108	104	89	403
1893	92	114	98	89	393
1894	91	92	102	96	381

### Conclusion.

In closing this, my Annual Report for 1894, I must express myself, in the capacity of Medical Officer of Health, as highly satisfied with the energetic action taken by this Council during the year which has just passed. The Sewering of three portions of this Union (three separate schemes); the Water Supply of the Townships south of the Ribble and Halfpenny Lane, Whittingham; the proposed adoption of Bye-Laws, and the Agreement to join with Fulwood and

Longridge in the Erection of an Infectious Hospital is a record of no mean order, and displays a keen interest in the sanitary well-being of the population placed under the charge of the Council. I have to sincerely thank the members of the old Rural Sanitary Authority for all the kindness, support, and courtesy I have at all times received at their hands. I respectfully ask the new Rural District Council to lend me their assistance, and I do earnestly trust that my relations with the newly-constituted Council may be as harmonious as those which have existed for the past 15 years between the old Board and myself. I hope that the statement now furnished may be fortunate enough to merit approval.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,  
L.R.C.P.ED., L.R.C.S.I., D.P.H., R.C.P.ED.

Louth House, Bamber Bridge,

6th February, 1895.



TABLE A.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1894 in the Rural District of Preston, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

[illegible]





TABLE B.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Preston Rural District Council's District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	Small Pox.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.
	Census 1891.									Census 1891.							
(a)	(b)		(d)	(e)					(a)	(b)		(d)	(e)				
Farington ...	2154		61	Under 5 5 upwards	...	1 1	...	...	Haighton ...	252		1	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...
Longton ...	1333		40	Under 5 5 upwards	...	1 2	...	...	Woodplumpton ...	1179		36	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	1
Much Hoole ...	567		20	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	Whittingham ...	752		34	Under 5 5 upwards	1	...	1	...
Hutton ...	374		13	Under 5 5 upwards	...	1 2	...	...	Ribchester ...	1265		31	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	1	...
Howick ...	101		5	Under 5 5 upwards	...	2 1	...	...	Dutton ...	236		3	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...
Penwortham ...	1671		39	Under 5 5 upwards	...	1 1	...	1	Hothersall ...	175		2	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...
Samlesbury ...	816		21	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	Grimsargh ...	432		2	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale ...	60		1	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	Elston ...	61		...	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...
Ashton, Ingol, Lea and Cottam }	702		21	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	Ribbleton ...	65		1	Under 5 5 upwards	1 2	...	...	...
Goosnargh ...	1576		17	Under 5 5 upwards	...	2 4	...	...	Little Hoole ...	481		9	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...
Broughton ...	610		15	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...									
Barton ...	338		9	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	Totals ...	15200		381	Under 5 5 upwards	1 2	9 13	...	...





TABLE C.

Mortality in the several Townships now constituting the Preston Rural District Council's District, with Area in Acres and Population, in 1891, together with the Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population and Demises due to Specified Causes during the years 1894, 1893, 1892.

TOWNSHIP.	Area in Acres.	Population 1891.	DEATHS IN 1894.			Death rate per 1000 of the population in 1894.	Death Rate, 1893.	Death Rate, 1892.	Deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.			Deaths from Phthisis.			Deaths from Typhoid Fever.			Deaths from Diphtheria, Measles, and Scarlet Fever.			Deaths from Diarrhoea and Dysentery.			Deaths taking place under 1 year			Illegitimate Deaths.			
			Males.	Females	Totals.				1894	1893	1892	1894	1893	1892	1894	1893	1892	1894	1893	1892	1894	1893	1892	1894	1893	1892	1894	1893	1892	
Farington	...	3190	2154	19	16	35	16.24	19.03	19.49	10	6	9	3	3	2	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	3	...	12	12	14	...	...	2
Longton	...	2997	1333	11	7	18	13.50	24.75	14.25	1	4	5	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	4	6	5	...	...	...
Much Hoole	...	1622	567	1	6	7	12.34	14.10	17.63	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	1	4	...	...	1	
Little Hoole	...	846	481	3	2	5	10.39	4.15	29.10	...	...	5	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	...	1	...	...	...	
Hutton	...	1859	374	3	4	7	18.71	5.34	16.04	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	
Howick	...	495	101	1	3	4	39.60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Penwortham	...	2109	1671	9	16	25	14.96	23.93	21.54	1	6	4	2	1	3	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	5	12	10	...	...	...
Samlesbury	...	3799	816	4	4	8	9.80	14.70	20.83	1	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	2	2	...	...	...
Cuerdale	...	660	60	...	...	...	...	5.00	16.66	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lea, Ashton, Ingol & Cottam	...	2884	702	8	5	13	18.51	17.09	15.66	5	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	4	3	3	...	...	...
Goosnargh	...	7891	1576	12	7	19	12.05	10.78	11.42	5	1	4	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	...	...	1	...	...
Broughton	...	2543	610	3	5	8	13.11	21.31	27.68	2	3	3	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	4	2	...	...	...	1	...
Barton	...	2303	338	1	2	3	8.87	17.75	14.79	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	1
Haighton	...	1041	252	...	4	4	15.87	11.90	23.80	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Woodplumpton	...	4699	1179	14	7	21	17.18	16.11	17.81	3	1	3	1	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	...	1	...	...
*Whittingham	...	2641	752	4	2	6	7.97	19.94	22.60	...	3	5	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	3	5	...	...	1
†Ribchester	...	2093	1265	9	11	20	15.81	19.76	22.93	1	9	12	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	2	4	7	1	...	...	...
Dutton	...	1665	236	3	4	7	2.96	...	4.23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Hothersall	...	963	175	1	...	1	5.72	...	11.42	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh	..	1608	432	1	1	2	4.62	25.46	16.20	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
Elston	...	866	61	...	..	..	...	16.39	16.39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ribbleton	...	289	65	1	1	2	32.30	15.83	15.38	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	49063	15200	108	107	215	14.14	18.48	17.56	33	46	57	10	14	16	2	2	...	4	5	7	1	13	6	42	53	59	1	3	6

\* This area and population does not include the grounds and inmates of Whittingham Asylum.

† Does not include deaths taking place at Ribchester Workhouse.

			1894	1893	1892
Deaths under one year	...	42	Rate per 1,000 Registered Births ...	110.23	134.86
„ over 1 year and under 5 years	16	...			
„ over 65 years	66	...			
			1.05	1.71	1.97
			4.34	5.13	6.18





TABLE D.

BIRTHS taking place in the Rural portion of the Preston Union, with rate per 1000 of the Population for the years 1894, 1893, 1892, also some information respecting Illegitimate Births for the same years.

Townships.	Population 1891.	Births during 1894.			Rate per 1,000 of the Population.			Illegitimate Births.		
		Males.	Females	Totals.	1894	1893	1892	1894	1893	1892
Farington .....	2154	26	35	61	28.31	35.28	39.92	2	1	4
Longton .....	1333	16	24	40	30.00	24.75	28.50	2	1	...
Much Hoole .....	567	9	11	20	35.27	24.69	40.56	1	...	2
Little Hoole .....	481	4	5	9	18.71	16.63	18.71	...	1	...
Hutton .....	374	5	8	13	34.75	24.06	24.06	1	...	...
Howick .....	101	2	3	5	49.50	19.80	49.50	...	...	...
Penwortham .....	1671	23	16	39	23.93	28.72	26.33	...	...	2
Samlesbury .....	816	13	8	21	25.73	18.38	34.31	...	...	...
Cuerdale .....	60	...	1	1	16.66	16.66	33.33	...	...	...
Lea, Ashton, Ingol, & Cottam	702	11	10	21	29.91	24.21	28.48	...	...	...
Goosnargh .....	1576	10	7	17	10.78	20.30	12.68	...	1	...
Broughton .....	610	8	7	15	24.59	29.50	21.31	1	...	1
Barton .....	338	4	5	9	26.66	35.20	20.71	...	...	...
Haighton .....	252	...	1	1	3.96	7.93	11.90	...	...	1
Woodplumpton .....	1179	23	13	36	30.53	22.05	25.44	4	1	1
Whittingham .....	752	21	13	34	45.21	43.88	39.89	1	1	1
Ribchester .....	1265	13	18	31	24.50	21.34	20.25	1	...	...
Dutton .....	236	1	2	3	12.71	21.18	8.47	...	...	...
Hothersall .....	175	1	1	2	11.42	11.42	5.71	...	...	...
Grimsargh .....	432	2	...	2	4.62	25.46	9.25	...	1	...
Elston .....	61	...	...	...	...	16.39	32.78	...	...	...
Ribbleton .....	65	...	1	1	15.38	15.38	15.38	...	...	...
Totals .....	15200	192	189	381	25.06	25.85	26.51	13	7	12



**TABLE E.**

Shewing a Monthly Return of Births and Deaths for 1894, also the Mortality from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy during the years 1894, 1893, and 1892.

	BIRTHS.					DEATHS.					Deaths due to Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, and Pleurisy, 1894.	Ditto, 1893.	Ditto, 1892.	Deaths due to Phthisis, 1894.	Ditto, 1893.	Ditto, 1892.
	Males.	Females.	Totals 1894	Totals 1893	Totals 1892	Males.	Females	Totals 1894	Totals 1893	Totals 1893						
January .....	14	19	33	34	38	13	12	25	30	31	6	9	8	2	5	...
February .....	15	19	34	24	40	11	16	27	15	38	4	6	10	1	...	3
March .....	12	12	24	24	24	6	9	15	26	25	2	6	9	1	1	...
April .....	15	10	25	38	37	10	15	25	19	26	8	3	7	...	1	3
May .....	28	12	40	41	26	6	7	13	26	16	1	3	1	1	1	...
June .....	16	11	27	35	45	6	3	9	16	18	2	5	1	1	1	2
July .....	19	16	35	31	37	11	8	19	21	20	1	2	4	1	1	...
August .....	12	21	33	31	32	8	4	12	24	19	...	2	3	1	...	...
September ...	13	21	34	36	35	6	7	13	25	22	1	2	...	...	...	4
October .....	17	34	34	41	33	5	8	13	22	22	2	2	4	...	2	1
November ...	15	16	31	19	31	15	7	22	20	25	5	...	5	1	1	1
December.....	16	15	31	29	25	11	11	22	23	19	1	6	5	1	1	2
Totals .....	192	189	381	383	403	108	107	215	267	281	33	46	57	10	14	16

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,

Louth House.

L.R.C.P.ED., L.R.C.S.I., D.P.H., L.R.C.P.ED.

Bamber Bridge, Near Preston,

Medical Officer of Health.

6th February, 1895.



